

REMARKS

The specification has been corrected on page 7 to correct typographical errors and to better describe the invention. No new matter has been added and support for such corrections is found in the Abstract and page 5, first three paragraphs, as well as throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Claims 1-20 (as now amended) are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Derner.

This invention is directed to a trunnion assembly having two grease chamber and seals with each grease chamber being pressurized from separate and distinct passageways from two distinct grease fittings external to the trunnion assembly. The outer grease chamber 20 associated with the bearing assembly 27 receives pressurized grease from its grease fitting 23 and passageway 24 and the old grease is purged rearwardly out the bearing assembly and forwardly into the front or inner grease chamber 17.

The inner grease chamber 17 is then normally pressurized via its grease fitting 21 (and/or 25 for example) and passageway 22, which pushes any and all of the contaminated grease back into the drum interior space 16, from which it is removed prior to reuse of the mixer. Thus mortar slurry from the drum is restricted to entry into the inner chamber 17 and not into the outer chamber 20, greatly extending the life of the bearing and extending the downtime and/or the life of the mixer.

Claim 1 defines over Derner, by reciting, inter alia

“, said housing including a first grease passageway for providing grease into said first chamber and a second grease passageway spaced away from said first grease passageway for providing grease into said second chamber, said first and second grease passageways being separate, distinct and non-communicating with each other such that said first and second chambers are individually greased respectively from said first and second grease passageways.”

Applicant does not believe that the claim 1 needs to recite any specific purpose or solve any stated problem. The specification does that and applicant would welcome any specific suggestion that the Examiner has with regard thereto. Since Derner intends to use interconnected passageways to grease his two chambers with the same

grease, it seems highly unlikely that one having ordinary skill in the art with only Derner under consideration would obviously reconstruct Derner to make the passageways non-communicating and distinct from each other.

The Ramsay patent 6,210,103 has been considered and applicant believes that this reference is not pertinent to the issues herein.

Claims 2-4 are dependent on Claim 1 and should also be allowed.

Claim 6 is still believed to be patentable over Derner by reciting inter alia,

“, each said housing including a pair of spaced grease fittings, a first passageway communicating between one of said grease fittings and said first chamber and a second passageway communicating between one of said grease fittings and said first chamber and a second passageway communicating between another said grease fittings and said second chamber.”

Claims 7-9 depend on Claim 6 and should be found allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 6.

Claim 11 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 11 is believed to be patentable over Derner by reciting inter alia,

“, said housing including a first grease fitting and a first passageway communicating between said first grease fitting and said first chamber and a second grease fitting spaced away from said first grease fitting and a second passageway spaced away from said first passageway communicating between said second grease fitting and said second chamber.”

Claims 12-14 depend on Claim 11 and should also be found allowable.

Claim 16 is believed to be patentable over Derner by reciting, inter alia,

“, each said housing including a pair of spaced grease fittings and a pair of elongated spaced passageways respectively ~~connected~~ connecting said grease fittings with said first and second chambers.”

Claims 17-19 are dependent on Claim 16 and should now be allowed.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested prior to any final action on the merits to reduce or eliminate any remaining issues.

An Interview Summary is attached hereto as requested (page 11).

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

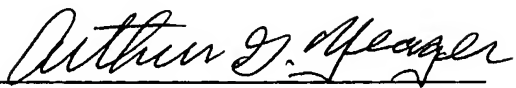
The claims discussed were claims 6 and 11 and the fact that the Examiner had apparently overlooked the structural recitations of "a pair of spaced grease fittings" (Claim 6); and "a first grease fitting" and "a second grease fitting" (Claim 11). The Examiner agreed that the applied Derner reference did not anticipate such claims.

We discussed several proposed changes to Claim 1, but no specific language was submitted or agreed upon.

A patent to Ramsay-6,210,103 was brought to the attention of applicant's attorney.

The courtesy of the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,


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